

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 CCO-00 IO-13
AID-05 /078 W

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FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2445

INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 2501

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, PFOR, PINS, AEMR, CG, AO

SUBJECT: SHABA INVASION: GOZ SAYS NIGERIA AGREES TO MEDIATE

1. FOREIGN MINISTER NGUZA, JUST BACK FROM LAGOS VIA LIBREVILLE,
CALLED ME TONIGHT TO REPORT RESULTS OF HIS EFFORTS TO APPEAL FOR
NIGERIAN INITIATIVE ON SHABA INVASION. NGUZA GAVE ME FOLLOWING
ACCOUNT:

2. OBASANJO HAD AGREED TO UNDERTAKE MEDIATION ROLE BETWEEN ZAIRE
AND ANGOLA. HE HAS DESPATCHED TODAY NIGERIAN POLICE INSPECTOR
GENERAL (WHO OBASANJO SAYS HAS PARTICULARLY CLOSE RELATIONS WITH
ANGOLANS) TO LUANDA TO SOUND OUT PRA ON WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT
MEDIATION. IF ANGOLAN RESPONSE IS POSITIVE, OBASANJO WILL
IMMEDIATELY ANNOUNCE NIGERIAN READINESS TO MEDIATE.

3. MEANWHILE, FONMIN GARBA WILL LEAVE TOMORROW FOR WASHINGTON
VIA LONDON "TO INFORM SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE OF NIGERIANS
INITIATIVE." WHILE IN US GARBA WILL ALSO CONSULT WITH UN
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SECRETARY GENERAL AND SOVIET AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN. (IN RESPONSE TO
QUERY, NGUZA SAID HIS UNDERSTANDING IS THAT GARBA WILL PROCEED TO
WASHINGTON EVEN BEFORE RECEIVING ANGOLAN RESPONSE.)

4. IF ANGOLANS AGREE TO NIGERIAN MEDIATION, GARBA WILL THEN GO
TO SHABA "IN UNIFORM" TO MAKE ON-THE-SPOT INVESTIGATION,
THEN PROCEED TO LUANDA. HE WILL PROPOSE DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS

BETWEEN ZAIRE AND ANGOLA, WITH NIGERIA AS MEDIATOR.

5. ACCORDING TO NGUZA, NIGERIAN VIEW IS THAT OAU INVESTIGATION IS UNNECESSARY SINCE IT IS ALREADY EVIDENT THAT SHABA INVADERS CAME FROM ANGOLA; IT IS ZAIRE'S "SOVEREIGN DUTY" TO INSIST THAT THEY RETURN; WAY MUST BE FOUND TO ASSURE THAT SIMILAR ATTACK DOES NOT OCCUR AGAIN.

6. ABOVE IS NGUZA'S CAPSULE VERSION OF DISCUSSIONS WITH NIGERIANS, WHICH OF COURSE SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION BY EMBASSY LAGOS. NGUZA ADDED THAT DURING HIS STOP IN LIBREVILLE PRESIDENT BONGO GAVE FULL SUPPORT TO ZAIRIAN POSITION AND PROMISED TO CONFIRM THIS PUBLICLY.

7. AS FOR OAU ROLE, NGUZA SAID HE AND NIGERIANS AGREED SITUATION WAS TOO URGENT TO GO THROUGH FORMAL CONSULTATION PROCESS. HE SAID HE WOULD INFORM MY BELGIAN AND FRENCH COLLEAGUES THAT HIS DISCUSSIONS IN LAGOS HAD YIELDED POSITIVE RESULTS AND ANNOUNCEMENT TO THIS EFFECT COULD BE EXPECTED SHORTLY. IN MEANTIME, IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT NONE OF WESTERN ALLIES SAY ANYTHING PUBLICLY THAT MIGHT UNDERMINE "AFRICAN" INITIATIVE.
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